

III. REMARKS

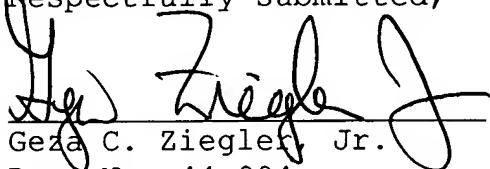
1. Claims 1 and 5 are amended. Claim 7 is cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-6 and 8-9 are pending in this application.
2. Claims 1 and 5 are amended to overcome the noted objections.
3. Claim 1-6 and 9 as amended are patentable over Ishii, U.S. Pub. 2002/0132612, in view of Picard et al., U.S. Pub. 2004/0146147. Independent claims 1 and 5 are amended to include subject matter of claim 7, which has been indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Thus, neither Ishii nor Picard, individually or in combination, disclose or suggest what is claimed in Applicant's claims 1 and 5 as amended. Claims 2-4, 6 and 9 are patentable by reason of their respective dependencies.

Claim 8 is patentable over Ishii in view of Picard and in further view of Parvulescu et al., U.S. Patent 6,252,517. Claim 8 depends from claim 1, which has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 7. Thus, claim 8 is allowable over either Ishii, Picard and/or Parvulescu, individually or in combination, by reason of its dependency.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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8/23/2005
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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